

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115869

67

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TO USMISSION NATO

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TAGS: MILI, TECH, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO NEWS ITEM - US EXPORT OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: USNATO 2681

1. THE REMARKS REPORTED IN REFTEL WERE MADE BY DR. CURRIE IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF DETROIT ON MAY 12, 1975. QUOTED BELOW IS THAT PORTION OF THE SPEECH WHICH DEALT WITH NATO AND "COMMON TECHNOLOGY MARKETS."

BEGIN TEXT:

WE ALSO HAVE SEEN THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF "COMMON TECHNOLOGY MARKETS" -- ATTEMPTS TO AGGREGATE ECONOMIES AND THEREBY COMPETE WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 115869

UNITED STATES ON A MORE FAVORABLE SCALE. FOR

EXAMPLE, THERE ARE PROPOSALS WITHIN NATO WHICH ADVOCATE MAJOR LONG-TERM SHARING WITH EUROPE OF ADVANCED UNITED STATES TECHNOLOGY, AND A PARITY IN THE PURCHASES OF MILITARY ITEMS BY EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES FROM EACH OTHER. THIS PURPORTEDLY WOULD ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION EFFORT IN THE ALLIANCE, INCREASE EUROPEAN

SALES BY MAKING THEM MORE COMPETITIVE, AND PRESUMABLY INCREASE UNITED STATES SALES BY FREEING OUR DUPLICATIVE CAPACITY TO SATISFY FRESH MARKETS.

I BELIEVE WE MUST APPROACH THIS COMPLEX ISSUE OF THE EXPORT OF OUR TECHNOLOGY WITH CAUTION. CONGRESS HAS EVIDENCED ITS CONCERN. UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT COULD PRODUCE DIVIDENDS -- IT IS POINTED OUT THAT OUR TECHNOLOGY IS ONE OF THE FEW KEY ASSETS WE HAVE LEFT WITH WHICH TO BARTER ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. BUT THE ISSUE DESERVES EXTENSIVE STUDY BEFORE WE EMBRACE FULLY LARGE-SCALE NEW CONCEPTS IN THIS AREA. IT SEEMS AXIOMATIC THAT WE SHOULD INSIST ON TWO REQUIREMENTS BEFORE WE AGREE TO THE SALE OF RAW TECHNOLOGY. FIRST, WE MUST OBTAIN A MEASURABLE AND APPROPRIATE LONG-TERM QUID PRO QUO. SECOND, WE MUST RE-INVEST TO KEEP OUR RESERVOIR OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FULL. OTHERWISE, WE WILL EXCHANGE OUR FUTURE BARTERING STRENGTH FOR FLEETING SHORT-TERM GAIN.

I WOULD APPLY THESE REQUIREMENTS TO PROPOSALS BY OUR FRIENDS AND POTENTIAL FOES ALIKE. IN THE CASE OF OUR NATO ALLIES, WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT OUR MILITARY FRIENDS ARE ALSO OUR INDUSTRIAL COMPETITORS. THE CHALLENGE TO THE UNITED STATES, THEN, IS TO ACCOMMODATE THIS FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTION AMONG FREE NATIONS WITHOUT INJURY TO EITHER ALLIANCE MILITARY STRENGTH OR UNITED STATES TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL VITALITY AND LEADERSHIP. END TEXT.

2. IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS, MISSION MAY REFER TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 115869

ABOVE AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE. ADDITIONALLY, PAGES 7 THROUGH 9 OF NUNN AMENDMENT STANDARDIZATION REPORT CONTAIN THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF OUR POLICY ON THIS MATTER. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE THRUST OF DR. CURRIE'S REMARKS OR THE STANDARDIZATION REPORT INDICATE THAT WE ARE NBGATIVE TOWARDS PROPOSALS SUCH AS THOSE BY EUROGROUP.

----- WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR SOME SORT OF

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT AND BELIEVE THE EUROGROUP
PROPOSAL IS GENERALLY THE RIGHT WAY TO GO ABOUT
ACHIEVING IT. SPECIFIC DETAILS WILL HAVE TO BE
WORKED OUT IN JOINT CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES.

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